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3 MORE YEARS?

Read about Trump's first year, starting on page 4.

Hitting up the Women's March tomorrow? Here's where to refuel. 14

Philly clings to sanctuary city policies. 11

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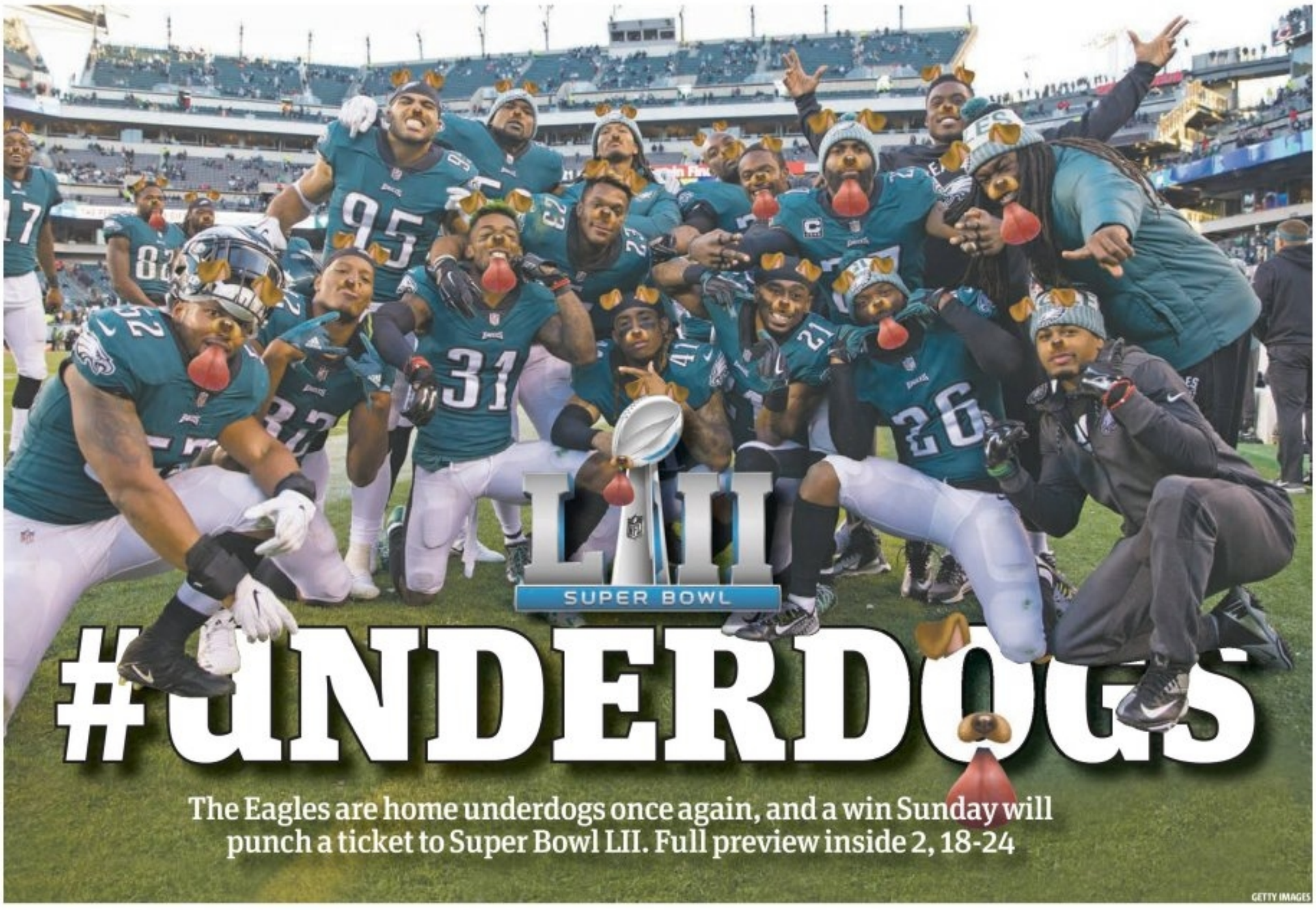

#UNDERDOGS

The Eagles are home underdogs once again, and a win Sunday will punch a ticket to Super Bowl LII. Full preview inside 2, 18-24

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EAGLES-VIKINGS 5 THINGS TO WATCH FOR

EVAN MACY, SPORTS EDITOR

The Eagles will play in the NFC Championship game for the seventh time in 18 years Sunday. And when things kick off Sunday at 6:40 on Fox, it will feel like the good old days. The winner will advance to the Super Bowl, playing the winner of the AFC's Jaguars-Patriots tilt. In the past two (and only two) Eagles' Super Bowl berths, the team beat the Vikings in the playoffs at some point. They'll try to make it three this weekend. Here are five keys to a win on Sunday.

THE THIRD-DOWN BATTLE

1 The Vikings have the best third-down defense ever recorded, allowing a conversion just around 25 percent of the time. Up first on the Eagles to-do list Sunday will be not only finding creative ways to convert on third downs, but also making sure they are short and more attainable distances.

Philly was very good in this against the Falcons last week, going 6-for-13 on third downs.

"We need to stay in phase," Eagles offensive coordinator Frank Reich said. "We had a lot of third-and-manageables last week. I think we avoided negative plays. We had obviously a few negative runs. ... We didn't have too many penalties. ... Last week I think we had three drives of over 10 plays, so that's the challenge against going up against one of the better defenses in the league. And so I think one thing is we have to scheme, and our players, we all together, have to ways to make a few chunk plays here and there."

STOP THIELEN, DIGGS

2 Any fantasy football player will know the names of Minnesota's receivers. Adam Thielen has emerged as one of the best volume wideouts in the NFL, and Stefon Diggs has become a household name after his game-winning walkoff touchdown against the Saints last week. Keeping tabs on the duo — which has combined for more than 2,000 yards and 12 touchdowns — will be paramount for the defense.

"These are good receivers," head coach Doug Pederson said. "These guys have worked themselves. I mean, you look at Adam's career and how he started and got into this league and the way he's worked. There is another player right there. Great example of a guy that just said, 'I'm not going to listen to the outside noise and I'm going to do everything I can to make this team, make this roster,' and now he's a 1,000-yard receiver, just playing extremely well."

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RUN FOR FOLES

3 The run game was important when Wentz was under center, and he was the leading NFL MVP candidate before he went down in Week 13. Now with Nick Foles calling the shots with the football, the Birds will need a similarly run-first gameplan to work again. Last week, short passes, screens and 96 rushing yards helped them control the pace and the ball.

"The quick, short passing game obviously can help, the running game can help," Pederson said. "Somewhere in there, if you can take a shot, you take a shot and whether you hit, like first play of the game, if you hit it or not, that kind of gets your blood flowing a little bit."

SCORE IN THE RED ZONE

4 The Eagles scored 15 points against the Falcons and it was enough, thanks to a great defensive effort. But six points came from chip shot field goals last week — leaving what amounts to essentially eight wasted points. Getting Alshon Jeffery going could be the key to scoring against the Vikings. After all, the former Bears wideout has scored seven touchdowns while averaging 76 yards in nine games against Minnesota.

"I've gone back and looked at that matchup in particular just to see the battle that went on and the types of things that Alshon did against [Vikings cornerback Xavier Rhodes] and the coverage technique that he used. Does it apply to this game? Maybe a little bit. I think Alshon's a better player. I think [Rhodes is] a much better player, obviously, and he's playing with a lot of confidence. It's going to be another great matchup again Sunday evening."

IN DOUG WE TRUST

5 All season long, Pederson has exceeded expectations as the Eagles sophomore head coach. He has made bold decisions regarding game management and play-calling and many of the unconventional choices he's made have paid off. And the coach deserves as much credit as anybody for taking the bruised and battered Birds this far. His decision making will be under intense scrutiny Sunday,

"What I've learned about him and through watching him call plays is probably a little bit more unorthodox at times in a good way – calling two screens back-to-back, for instance, the other day," offensive coordinator Frank Reich said. "Some of the stuff — there's other examples that I don't even want to get into just for competitive advantage reasons, but there's other things that he's called that at the time I thought, that's unique, I'm not sure that would have hit my brain like that, and many times those things have worked out. So that's been fun to see and fun to work with."

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Donald Trump reaches the one-year mark

Metro highlights the most important moments of his first 365 days as president.

DAVID CORDERO MERCADO | METRO WORLD NEWS
PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Many saw the possibility of Donald Trump becoming president when he was still a candidate, but Jan. 20, 2017, he made history by being sworn in as the 45th POTUS. Today, Trump confronts many obstacles: numerous scandals; an investigation into his ties with Russia, along with those of people close to him and members of his campaign; and the lingering opinion that he might not even finish his first term in the White House. But, despite everything, the real-estate mogul has achieved one year as leader of the most powerful nation in the world.

2 The day after Trump's inauguration, at least half a million people participated in the Women's March, a mass demonstration on the capital condemning racism and raising awareness of human rights, equality, inclusion and the rights of the LGBTQ community. It was a direct message to the president on his first day of work, after several women accused him of sexual harassment and a recording emerged in which he can be heard saying that he can "grab 'em by the pussy." That day, millions more marched in cities in the U.S. and around the world in support of the protest and its goals.

4 During his first year, the president has made numerous official visits abroad, including to Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Israel, Germany, France. How could anyone forget his May visit to the Vatican and his huge smile, in total contrast to the impassive face of Pope Francis? Or his visit to the Western Wall in Jerusalem with first lady Melania; and eldest daughter Ivanka and her husband, Jared Kushner?

5 Trump has even caused controversy for his treatment of leaders during official visits to the White House. It did not go unnoticed when Trump refused to shake hands with German Chancellor Angela Merkel during her visit to the United States in March. "Do you want a handshake?" Merkel asked Trump, but he neither answered nor extended his hand.

6 Before Merkel, the president received in the White House Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, whose hand he squeezed and held for 19 seconds. Trump's assertion of dominance via hand-squeezing was evidenced on several occasions. But during his February visit to D.C., Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau squeezed and controlled Trump's hand twice. With Trump, everything starts with the handshake.

3 During the past 12 months, the United States and the world have experienced historical moments in which Trump has been the protagonist. Almost immediately after being sworn in, Trump ordered the Department of Homeland Security to enforce immigration laws more aggressively, a first step in his offensive against undocumented immigrants. A year after inauguration, Trump has not been able to fulfill his promise to build a wall on the border with Mexico, but during the past few weeks he has used the proposal as a tool to exert pressure in exchange for agreements on immigration policies such as DACA.

5 CONTROVERSIAL TWEETS DURING TRUMP'S FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE

TWEET 1

Donald J. Trump

The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!

In February, in a tweet, Trump referred to important national media as the "enemies of the American people." The president has accused different outlets of being "fake news" and has routinely shunned the press.

TWEET 2

Donald J. Trump

Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my "wires tapped" in Trump Tower just before the victory. Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!

In March, the president accused his predecessor, Barack Obama, of having intervened in Trump Tower telephone communications just before the 2016 presidential elections.

7 Using the "nuclear option," the Senate confirmed Neil Gorsuch in April as the newest justice on the Supreme Court. With the appointment, the balance in the Supreme Court kept its conservative majority, although judge Anthony Kennedy, 80, has demonstrated that he is willing to vote with both sides. During confirmation, Gorsuch did not talk about whether he would guarantee social rights such as abortion.

8 In early June, the president withdrew the United States from the Paris climate agreement, a major setback to measures implemented by the Obama administration. Trump said he would start new negotiations to reach agreements on climate change that in his opinion are more convenient for the country. "The United States will withdraw from the Paris climate pact, but will negotiate to re-enter the Paris agreement or a completely new transaction on fair terms for the United States," Trump said.

9 During Trump's visit to Puerto Rico in October after the devastation of Hurricane Maria, Trump threw rolls of paper towels to victims, as if it were a basketball game or a lottery of essential items, an action that was described by many as humiliating and outrageous.

10 In December, the Supreme Court gave way to the order issued by the president that allows citizens of Chad, Iran, Syria, Libya, Yemen and Somalia — countries with a Muslim majority — as well as North Korea and Nicolás Maduro's regime in Venezuela, to be banned from entering the United States. The decision of the Supreme Court is not yet final, as several legal challenges are still ongoing. As recently as the second week of January 2018, Trump sparked a new controversy over immigration after he allegedly referred to Haiti and African countries as "s—hole countries."

11 Also in December, Trump celebrated along with Senate Leader Mitch McConnell, as well as House Leader Paul Ryan, Vice President Mike Pence and members of his White House work team, after approval on a tax-reform bill that has been qualified by its supporters as Trump's and the Republican Party's greatest legislative triumph during the first year of his administration. However, it has also been condemned for granting great benefits in the form of tax cuts to companies and those with higher incomes, and minor relief to the middle and lower classes.

TWEET 3

Donald J. Trump
After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow.....

In July, the president tweeted that the military would no longer allow transgender citizens to serve.

TWEET 4

Also in July, the president posted a GIF in which he is beating a man with a CNN logo superimposed on his head.

TWEET 5

Donald J. Trump
In the East, it could be the COLDEST New Year's Eve on record. Perhaps we could use a little bit of that good old Global Warming that our Country, but not other countries, was going to pay TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS to protect against. Bundle up!

At the end of December, President Trump joked about climate change and suggested that America's East Coast will be protected by global warming.

Trump's legislative agenda was a disaster at first, but then late in the year he signed a big tax reform plan. GETTY IMAGES

THE FOREMAN FORECAST: THE WORD ON TRUMP

Ask any Trump hater coast-to-coast for one word to describe the current president of the United States' first year in office, and they might well go with "disaster." In fact, that descriptor was the most common one offered by people in a Quinnipiac University survey earlier this year. It was followed closely by "chaotic" and, lagging back in third place, "successful."

For roughly two-thirds of Americans who do not approve of his job performance, perhaps this is no surprise. But in some ways, this is puzzling.

Like most new presidents, he struggled settling into the Oval Office. Well, maybe more than most. But it's hard to find a new chief executive who has not had some stumbles, and what would you expect from a man with zero experience in politics? Yet, he has presided over a Republican agenda that — a year into his term — is suddenly looking more successful than anticipated.

From the viewpoint of conservatives, he's done a bang-up job seating judges who share their views. He's pushed for an increase in defense spending. His legislative agenda was a disaster, but then late in the year he signed a big tax reform plan. He hasn't built his promised wall with Mexico, but he's continued to rail about the need for immigration reform. And the economy — often considered the single most important concern of voters — started booming under Barack Obama and is doing even better now: Unemployment is low, the markets are high, and home values are soaring, too.

Think of all that, then subtract the name Trump. If he were a typical Republican who wasn't, well, him I suspect Trump would have an approval rating somewhere in the 50 to 55 percent range. But he is brash. He is impulsive. He taunts his enemies and abandons his friends. He seems intent on fostering division among us, not unity. He routinely tweets demonstrably false information. He tramples tradition.

I suspect this is really why his approval rating is so low a year into the job; not because so many Americans dislike what he is doing, but because they are so troubled by the way he is doing it.

TOM FOREMAN

Analysis

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously."

VOCABULARY

Research confirms Trump speaks like fourth-grade student

Website Factba.se has analyzed all the interviews and speeches that Trump has given since the '80s and has confirmed that the 45th POTUS has the lowest grade level of communication of the last 15 presidents.

A study led by Bill Frischling, creator of Factba.se, found that Donald Trump writes and speaks as a fourth-grade level student.

When Donald Trump assured the world that he was a "genius," Frischling analyzed the content of his speeches with a standardized test called the Flesch–Kincaid developed by the U.S. government. Frischling used the formula and, with the information collected at Factba.se, analyzed the data of the 15 most recent presidents, since Herbert Hoover.

"By every metric and methodology tested, Donald Trump's vocabulary and grammatical structure is significantly more simple, and less diverse, than any president since Herbert Hoover, when measuring 'off-script' words — words far less likely to have been written in advance for the speaker," Frischling wrote in the article.

He added: "The gap between Trump and the next closest president ... is significant."

The words Trump uses most frequently in excess of normal English, according to Factba.se:

- great
- amazing
- folks
- vote
- disaster
- united
- tremendous
- fantastic
- incredible
- deals

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When asked if they would go back and change their 2016 vote if possible, most of those who voted for Trump said that they wouldn't change a thing. GETTY IMAGES

Trump's approval low at end of first year in office, but his base still stands behind him

Despite an overall approval rating of 39 percent, Trump voters wouldn't go back and change their 2016 ballot if they could, according to an Emerson College poll.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
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One year since Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States he has one of the lowest year-end approval ratings in history, yet his supporters still wouldn't have it any other way, according to a new poll.

Trump's approval rating after his first year in office is about 39 percent, according to a new poll out of Emerson College Polling Society (and his first-year approval record was the worst of the most recent seven presidents, according to Gallup). Fifty-two percent of voters disapprove of his job performance, per the Emerson poll.

That approval rating is down from 48 percent (and a 47 percent disapproval) recorded by an Emerson poll in Feb. 2017.

Though his overall approval rating has slipped, Trump's core base hasn't swayed in their support.

When asked, if given the opportunity, would they change how they voted in 2016, only 12 percent of Trump voters said that they would cast their presidential election ballot differently.

"It looks like his base is still intact, yet approval is low," said Spencer Kimball, advisor of the Emerson College Polling Society. "The way I explained it was like a person not doing a good job, but people are saying, 'give them another chance.' They're disappointed, but [the person] is not fireable."

Though Trump's approval rating seems low, Kimball noted that George W. Bush left office in 2009 with an approval rating of 22 percent.

"So [Trump's] got a little room to drop," Kimball said. "His policies, they really haven't set in, so it's hard for him to make the case that any of his policies are generally positive for people, until they see more of the results."

That could change, Kimball noted, with the tax reform bill set to shake things up in the coming months — though more than 41 percent of voters are not supportive of the tax plan, according to the Emerson poll.

The poll also asked voters if they thought Trump was a "mentally stable person," or "a mentally unstable person." The results were pretty split, with 43 percent saying Trump was mentally stable and 45 percent saying he was mentally unstable.

There's no benchmark to compare this too, unfortunately — as in, Kimball doesn't have numbers for the population that thought President Barack Obama was mentally stable. But the results still seemed high to him, and the fact that this question was included in this poll at all is telling.

"These are definitely different issues that are coming to light in this administration," he said. "We knew that it was going to be a different type of administration, based on his campaign and his disruptive policies. Now, we're seeing it in the topics being discussed by the population, so we have to think about how to ask questions to really gauge public opinion."

We'll just have to wait and see what year two of Trump's presidency holds.

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Exploring the green movement's 'regenerative' future at new forum series

The Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Philly forum will explore the regenerative paradigm of development.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The green movement has taken on many incarnations over its history, but a growing movement sees its future in the "regenerative" approach. It's not about chaining protesters to bulldozers in front of a forest, but re-imagining development to help humans co-exist with nature.

"We have all the technology we need to save the planet right now," said Bill Reed, a regenerative planning leader who will speak on the subject at a forum in Philly next week. "We had it more than 2,000 years ago."

The Urban Regeneration Forum on Jan. 22 will bring together regeneration-oriented thinkers, designers and engineers to delve into getting the approach rolling. It's the first in a projected series of events exploring the regenerative paradigm.

"Instead of doing less damage to the environment, it is necessary to learn how we can participate with the environment – using the health of ecological systems as a basis for design," Reed, leader of the Regenesis Group, wrote in a paper explaining why he thinks developers and designers should shift away from a "sustainability" focus.

Reed was also an early leader in advancing LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) sustainability standards for construction. While they may seem like just one more step forward, the philosophy behind LEED standards goes much deeper, to a vision of a world where human activity and structures are all designed to not only limit the negative impact on the environment, but to help it.

"It's about how do we provide food and shelter without killing all the other living beings on earth, but actively enhancing the vitality of life as we do it," said Max Zahniser, founder of the Sustainability Nexus, which helps network and amplify social and environmental movements in Philly and is hosting the forum.

> ***"We have all the technology we need to save the planet right now."***
>
> Bill Reed

"We need to rethink our system, so Philadelphia can one day again have as little impact as the forest that used to be here," said Zahniser, also co-founder of CityCoHo, Philly's sustainability-oriented co-working space at 2401 Walnut St., a LEED building. "That's totally possible."

The forum will include discussion of regenerative thinking and approaches to various speakers from the Philly area. Learn more about the Urban Rengeration Forum, which will be hosted by Jefferson University, at CityCoHo.com.

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This is why some voters are still trusting Trump, one year later

What scandals? Donald Trump supporters see year No. 1 as a satisfying move toward "America First" policies.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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One year into the presidency of Donald Trump, Chris Perugino, 69, of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, said she is experiencing a new feeling in life.

"More trust. Self-satisfaction," Perugino described, "If I endured the last eight years, I have hope for the next years."

Perugino is one of the Pennsylvania voters who helped turn the state Republican in a presidential election for the first time since 1988. She said her top political concerns are immigration, national security and stable military spending, and she doesn't think much of the many criticisms leveled against Trump.

"He needs to keep his mouth shut a little bit, but I believe that's his strategy, to keep things going and stir up the pot," she said. "He's on the crude side. … I don't condone it, it's not nice, but what the hell, it's life."

Perugino regularly follows White House news and watches the Trump administration's daily press briefings. But she said the media are biased and casually dismissed en masse all the criticisms of the past year as frivolous.

"There is so much garbage being slung at him," she said. "I find it not only obnoxious but laughable. Everything can't be wrong every single day."

Trump delegate Lauren Casper, of Philadelphia, has supported him since the primary. She said his first year has been unquestionably a success based on economic improvements.

"The president's record speaks for itself. Unemployment is at an all-time low, the stock market has hit record numbers, companies all across the country are hiring more employees and giving their current employees bonuses and pay raises," Casper said. "This is why we elected him — to change the status quo and implement a true 'America First' agenda. President Trump has exceeded my expectations and I continue to support the work of his administration."

Pennsylvania Trump delegate Lauren Casper, left, is still strongly supporting Trump one year later. COURTESY OF LAUREN CASPER

Aldridk Gessa-Lang, of Philadelphia, a Cuban immigrant and conservative who supported Ted Cruz in the primary, said she'd give Trump's first year a C+ or B-, but said she thinks most attacks on him are unmerited.

"I don't think he's a racist, white supremacist, bigot or xenophobe — based on the fact that I have not read, listened or watched any legitimate evidence which shows that he is any of those things," she said.

Gessa-Lang praised Trump for sticking to campaign goals on immigration and foreign policy through his agency appointments and others steps she supports like repealing the Obama policy on Cuba and recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

But he needs to lead and unite the GOP to be truly successful, she said.

"Reagan had to deal with worse political odds and still managed some amazing accomplishments," she said.

For voters like Perugino, the nation continues to be in safe hands. And she will be continuing to tune out the national media as long as they focus on the daily Trump scandal cycle.

"I don't think it's his intention to treat anyone poorly and I don't believe he's a racist," she said. "It doesn't have to be every single day, evil is there. The media has to see a ray of sunshine, other than their own deplorable selves."

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Philly not budging despite Trump attacks over 'sanctuary city' policy

ICE agents conducting part of four days of raids that involved 107 arrests in Philly. COURTESY OF ICE

Philadelphia is hanging onto its sanctuary-city policies even as President Donald Trump has followed up his campaign tough talk on immigration with very real attacks on cities that don't align with his vision.

The Department of Justice is fighting against Philly in the courts. They recently appealed a decision that said the department could not punish Philadelphia for being a sanctuary city by withholding an estimated $1.6 million in grants.

"We've received notice that the DOJ has appealed Judge Baylson's ruling, and we will vigorously defend the judge's well-reasoned decision," a city spokesperson responded in an email.

Meanwhile, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has been making more arrests than ever and has actively targeted sanctuary cities.

In 2017, there were some 5,000 arrests in the Philly enforcement area, which includes Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Delaware, up from 3,600 the previous year.

ICE nabbed 107 people in Philadelphia in one four-day raid last year, the highest single-city total of an operation that netted 500 arrests nationwide.

Philly has shown no interest in changing its policy, which Mayor Jim Kenney previously defended as "practices that keep our communities safe and provide victims and witnesses the security to come forward."

ICE acknowledged it was targeting sanctuary cities in 2017. Acting Director Tom Homan said the agency was "focused on cities and regions where ICE deportation officers are denied access to jails and prisons."

Immigrant activist group Juntos said the government is disturbing public safety with its retaliatory tactics.

"The vendetta that Sessions, the DOJ and ICE have against the city of Philadelphia is detrimental to the safety of all those who call our city home," a spokesman for the group said. SAM NEWHOUSE

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Gerard Butler wants to show the world he can act

Butler plays Big Nick in the surprisingly impressive crime heist thriller. STXFILMS

The Scottish actor talks "Den of Thieves," a film 14 years in the making.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

Much more so than his peers, Gerard Butler gives a refreshingly honest interview. The 48-year-old is grounded and aware of his reputation — but at the same time, he oozes star quality.

Even when he is sick. Which he was when we sat down to discuss "Den of Thieves."

"It's not the best time to start press," he says. "I hate doing press sick."

But Butler is hellbent on promoting "Den of Thieves" — out Jan.19 — especially because it gives us a very different Gerard Butler. As Big Nick, a corrupt LAPD officer intent on bringing down a group of intelligent bank robbers before they break into L.A.'s Federal Reserve Bank, Butler is ferocious, commanding and the best he's been since "300."

"This felt like it had real commercial appeal, but it also had a chance to be gritty and grimy," he says. "It gave me a chance to show my acting chops in my performance. With Big Nick, you really got to tell the story of an artist: He is intimidating, a bully, but at the same time there is a vulnerability to him."

GETTY

While the character of Big Nick was an immediate appeal for Butler, there was much more that attracted him to "Den of Thieves."

"I have always believed in it," he says. "It felt like a real dark horse of a script. Not really a lot of people knew about it. Even when we were filming it it wasn't really hyped up but it always felt like we were making a great movie and that it would take people by surprise."

While Butler has been involved for six years, cowriter and director Christian Gudegast actually first put pen to paper on "Den of Thieves" back in 2003. Over the years Gudegast has brought together "a hodgepodge of stories," articles, and research to help create the authentic and detailed film.

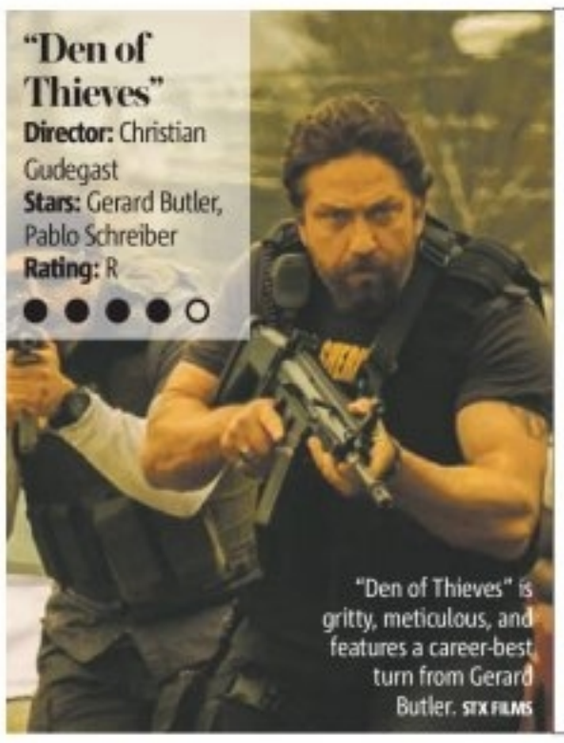
"Christian is a very dear friend of mine, and we have worked on a number of projects together," Butler says. "But it was still a gamble because he has never directed before. But if there was anyone who could pull it off it was him."

Pull it off, he did. And Butler has high hopes that audiences will feel the same — and welcome it among the best entries of the crime heist genre.

"It feels like it is an homage to 'Heat,' but at the same time it is completely its own movie and distinctive," he says. "Hopefully someone will one day say, 'I made this movie and it is an *homage* to Den of Thieves.'"

"Den of Thieves"

Director: Christian Gudegast
Stars: Gerard Butler, Pablo Schreiber
Rating: R
●●●●○



"Den of Thieves" is gritty, meticulous, and features a career-best turn from Gerard Butler. STX FILMS

"Den of Thieves" is that rarest of creations: a Gerard Butler film you need to take seriously. A project he has been working on for years, Butler inhabits the imposing tour-de-force that is Big Nick in such a powerful fashion that it effortlessly elevates the film.

There are other reasons "Den of Thieves" delivers, though. Co-writer and director Christian Gudegast crafts a world of the criminals, officers and heist with such meticulous detail that you are pulled closer and closer in. And the fact that the line between good and evil is completely blurred also allows "Den of Thieves" to take surprising twists and go in directions you never expected.

By its conclusion, you might feel as though the film has overstretched itself. But even at 140 minutes, it never drags and is ultimately an eye-opening, hugely enjoyable and worthy addition to the crime-heist genre.

GREGORY WAKEMAN

"12 Strong"

Director: Nicolai Fuglsig
Stars: Chris Hemsworth, Navid Negahban
Rating: R
●●○○○

"12 Strong" whimpers in the middle ground of action and authenticity. WARNER BROS

As a producer, Jerry Bruckheimer has always prioritized entertainment over pretty much every other aspect of a film. So it's rather bizarre that "12 Strong" finds itself stuck in a cinematic no-man's land between action and authenticity.

Don't get me wrong: "12 Strong" clearly heightens and exaggerates situations. But having been marketed as the story of American soldiers confronted with the unconventional warfare of Afghanistan, it doesn't explore said warfare nearly enough. Instead "12 Strong" misses opportunities to excite; even its set pieces progress in such a messy and chaotic manner that they inevitably underwhelm.

The combined presence and camaraderie of Chris Hemsworth, the impressive Navid Negahban, always delightful Michael Shannon, Trevante Rhodes, and Michael Pena stop "12 Strong" from completely falling flat. But it's ultimately a forgetful whimper instead of the rousing dose of patriotism intended. GW

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The Guy is back — and so is everyone else in Brooklyn, bonding over major and minor disappointments, parenthood and, of course, weed. HBO

'High Maintenance' is still blazing

In the second season, Katja Blichfeld and Ben Sinclair put community first.

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
rachael.clemmons@metro.us

Despite divorcing, Katja Blichfeld and Ben Sinclair, the brains behind "High Maintenance," are just fine. So those of you worried about the future of the show — whose second season premieres Friday, Jan. 19 — well. Don't.

"If any of you follow our personal narratives, you'll know it's been a year of a lot of ups and downs," Blichfeld said at a Q&A for the series at the Alamo Drafthouse in Brooklyn. "And we've been really lucky to be supported by each other. And some really good friends."

And despite — or because of — said personal narratives, the second season of the HBO series is beautiful, timely and as funny as ever. "High Maintenance" continues to be impressive in its diverse, all-welcoming landscape, telling the stories of all the kinds of people who live in New York and poking fun at them when need be.

But it's never mean. Blichfeld and Sinclair maintain a warm, open gaze on their subjects, whether dealing with white feminists, interracial families, or the collective shock felt through a borough after something major and unnamed happens. Something that's most likely the day we all found out Donald Trump was actually going to be president (that happens in the premiere episode, by the way).

"That idea was conceived of on Inauguration Day in January last year," Sinclair said. "We knew we didn't want to reveal that it was that — we don't even say Trump's name in this whole season."

"We were really interested, more than anything, in capturing a mood," Blichfeld added. "We didn't need to be specific about it. We felt pretty confident that over the next several months, other terrible things were probably going to happen that would be similar in their impact."

Still, while "High Maintenance" is set firmly in its left-leaning bubble, that aforementioned willingness to dive deep into diverse stories helps keep it universal.

"I've heard it said before that the more specific you can be in your story, the more universal it can become. And I think that's true," Blichfeld said. "Sometimes we get emails from people who are very distinctly not in cities who will say, 'Oh wow, your show really resonates with me.' And they'll call out episodes that, to me, feel like they're really specific to the New York urban experience."

"They call 'em indie-llectuals, they tell us," Sinclair said, laughing. "They told us our demographic is male-skewing indie-llectuals. You never heard of that?"

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The Women's March on Philadelphia: Where to eat

Fuel the fight.

JENNIFER LOGUE
jennifer.logue@metro.us

This Saturday marks one year since the first Women's March, the largest demonstration of its kind in modern U.S. history.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m., thousands of women (and men) will take to the streets for the second Women's March on Philadelphia on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

But where will you go if you get hungry? We've come up with a few delicious places to fuel up for a day of resisting, persisting and rising.

Did someone say shrimp and grits? Make your reservations at Urban Farmer in advance for brunch this Saturday. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Urban Farmer

1850 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
urbanfarmerphiladelphia.com

If you don't want to venture too far from the Parkway to grab breakfast or lunch, Urban Farmer at the Logan is perfect for you. It'll be serving breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m. and guests can enjoy goodies like a farm-vegetable frittata or shrimp and grits along with a steaming cup of coffee. If you want to do brunch, reservations are recommended.

Assembly Rooftop Lounge

1840 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
assemblyrooftop.com

Nine stories above Urban Farmer is the stunning Assembly Rooftop Lounge, which provides insane views of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Stop by for a cocktail or a glass of wine after the march and get a conversation going about what's next for the movement.

Wine powerhouse Jill Weber owns a number of Philly hotspots, including Jet Wine Bar, Rex 1516 and Cafe Ynez.

Square 1682

121 S. 17th St.
square1682.com

Perhaps you want to take time to dine somewhere that's close to the Parkway but not on it. Head over to Square 1682 for fresh squeezed juices and an array of yummy breakfast options like the breakfast sandwich (fried egg, Cabot cheddar, bibb lettuce, tomato, chipotle aioli, brioche, breakfast potatoes), buttermilk pancakes and avocado toast. Lead bartender Daniel Kulisek will also be crafting sizzling cocktails.

Ocean Prime

124 S. 15th St.
ocean-prime.com

Perhaps you'll want to dive into an early dinner after the Women's March? Treat yourself to a hearty meal at the luxurious steakhouse-meets-seafood spot, Ocean Prime. Doors open at 4 p.m. and Chef Jennifer Grosskruger will be serving up delectable dishes like Chilean sea bass, a 16-ounce ribeye and for dessert, butter cake.

Jet Wine Bar

1525 South St.
jetwinebar.com

If you're just in the mood for yummy food and an international wine selection, head over to Jet Wine Bar on South Street. Owned by Jill Weber, Philly's wine-loving archeologist, she received her Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, which ties in perfectly with the array of cultures featured through the wine selection at Jet. Brunch as well midday bites will be available Saturday.

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Local comedian Mike Brooks to record his debut album at The Grape Room

The funnyman will be celebrating his birthday with a performance that promises lots of laughs for comedy fans in the heart of Manayunk.

MIKE FENN
letters@metro.us

One of Philadelphia's most beloved comedians will be recording his first comedy album right here in Philadelphia—and you are welcome to be in the audience.

Michael Brooks, a two-time Philly's Phunniest finalist at Helium and the 2015 winner of the annual WMGK John DeBella Comedy Competition, will take to the stage of the Grape Room in Manayunk on Saturday, Jan. 27 for the recording of his debut album "Watch This" on Wasted Robot Records.

"Audiences can expect a lot of sweating," Brooks said with a laugh. "I'm a big dude, so the stage is my exercise room. It's going to be a lot of fun, with hard-hitting thoughts about life, family, work, and society. Everything that we all go through."

Mike Brooks will be recording his debut Album "Watch This" at the Grape Room in Manayunk. PROVIDED

While Brooks cites comedy legends like Dave Chappelle, Kevin Hart, and D.L. Hughley as inspiration, there are also local faces who he looks up to, such as Turae Gordon, The Legendary Wid, Chip Chantry, Shane Gillis and Chris Cotton.

"I think Philly's comedy scene is filled with great comedians that speak their truth and also know how to just destroy a crowd," Brooks said. "You cut your teeth in Philadelphia, and the comics let you know if you really have something or not. As a community, though, I think we have some room to grow; we still have 'urban style' comedians, 'alternative style' comedians, and various other styles that don't interact as much as I think we could. Funny is funny, no matter the style or the room."

If you go

Saturday, Jan. 27
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Hear what Brooks thinks about Philly comedians at **metro.us**

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Kids at Play is throwing its second birthday bash

Head out to East Falls for a day of indoor playground fun for kids of all abilities.

JENNIFER LOGUE
jennifer.logue@metro.us

This Sunday, Kids at Play in East Falls celebrates two years in business with its 2nd Birthday Bash.

The indoor sensory playground is open to kids of all abilities up to age 12.

"Kids at Play was started because we felt that there was no indoor, natural environment for kids to learn and grow through play. We also felt that there was not many places where children of all abilities could come and play together in an inclusive environment," says Kids at Play clinical director Julia Bookbinder. "Many people confuse us with a special needs facility. In fact, most of our families have typically developing children. We wanted to create a space that if a family did have a child with special needs or considerations, they could also come

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During the birthday bash, kids will get all-day access to the indoor sensory playground, which includes a ball pit and zip line. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Kids at Play is open to kids of all abilities and is located in East Falls.

here without worry or stress."

In addition to providing a safe place for kids to play and interact, the facility also provides therapy services for kids.

"We can provide early intervention, which is a free service for children birth through five years old. We also take private insurance for speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy, as well as provide ABA therapy privately," Bookbinder notes.

The indoor playground is 7,000 square feet and features a zip line with an ADA wheelchair accessible attachment, three ball pits (cleaned out weekly), a toddler zone, swings, rope tunnel, roller coaster car, an interactive virtual playground, a sensory room with gel floors, indoor archery and an art room.

So, why is play so important for kids?

"Play is vital to development because it helps a child make sense of the world around them by engaging, acting and reacting and copying what they see around them," Bookbinder explains.

The Birthday Bash on Sunday runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and tickets include day-long access to the indoor playground, a meet and greet with a surprise guest character, a magic show, face painting, balloon animals, cupcakes, refreshments and goodie bags for guests.

There will even be cupcakes for the little ones.

"Our Birthday Bash is going to be full of excitement," Bookbinder says.

And for the parents, she adds, "Don't worry — there will be lots of coffee!"

For more information on Kids at Play, visit: kidsatplaypa.com.

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The Eagles and Vikings will kick off in the NFC Championship Game on Sunday night at 6:40 on Fox. GETTY IMAGES

HOME FIELD EDGE? EAGLES HAVE 68,000 FANS READY TO LOUDLY AGREE

GLEN MACNOW

OPINION

Glen Macnow has been an outspoken voice in Philly sports for nearly three decades. @realglenmacnow

It's trendy now for media blowhards to downplay the impact of Eagles fans, to wave a ream of nerdy analytics suggesting home field edge isn't worth a fig in the land of midnight green.

Don't you believe it. The Eagles have many advantages going into this NFC title game against the Minnesota Vikings. Somewhere on that checklist – just behind a sturdy offensive line and an innovative, ballsy head coach – are the 68,000 ear-piercing zealots who will rattle Lincoln Financial Field under a sliver of a moon Sunday night.

"It's tough on opponents in a hostile environment, and that's what Philly is," defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz said last week. "It's been a great advantage for us over the course of the year, and it's not just the players on the field."

Indeed, it isn't. One of the great storylines of this glorious season has been the role of those fans, who are too often falsely dismissed as inebriated, inarticulate louts. They've roared steadily through nine home games, helping spur 23 opponent pre-snap penalties (5th highest in the league). They've conquered stadiums in LA (twice) and the Meadowlands, even drawing praise from arch-enemy Eli Manning.

This is a town belittled for booing our own, but I can't cite more than a handful of times the natives grew caustic this season. Of course, 13-3 tends to help.

It's tough to quantify cause and effect, but consider this: In eight road games this season, the Eagles defense allowed 21.8 points per game. In their nine home games to date, that dropped to a miserly 12.2 points per game.

Similarly, the Eagles allowed 50 fewer yards per game at the Linc than on the road. Visiting QB ratings tumbled 10 points, and RBs averaged nearly a yard less per carry.

Fletcher Cox, Malcolm Jenkins and the other guys actually paid to put on their jerseys every week deserve the bulk of the credit. But don't ever discount the role of the people who sit up high and holler.

"When the place is rocking, you feel it," said tight end Brent Celek, the Eagles longest-tenured player. "Yes, the fans can influence the game. No question."

There's been a foolish attempt in Minnesota to recruit Vikings fans to come to this game. One travel agent who sounded like a male version of Sarah Palin issued a warning, however, telling visiting Minnesotans not to wear purple.

"I know it sounds ridiculous," said Ticket King's Drew Baydala, "like we're almost talking about gangs there, but it's no joke down in Philly. It really isn't."

Well, I don't foresee those extras from "Fargo" getting assaulted Sunday. That stereotype of us as violent Visigoths is largely folklore. But I do foresee any Minnesotan on site shrinking while surrounded by 68,000 leather-lunged maniacs. And I believe that creates a genuine advantage for the good guys.

Oh, and I also foresee this: Eagles win, 17-14.

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The Eagles' continued underdog status means everything and nothing

There are no shortage of motivating factors for the Eagles this Sunday.

EVAN MACY
evan.macy@metro.us

> *"The cliché that defense wins championships is alive and well."*
>
> Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins

The Eagles are hosting the NFC Championship on Sunday — one win away from the Super Bowl. It's what players work for their entire careers, and many greats have failed to play in the big game.

Philadelphia doesn't need a reason get motivated for this game. It's a chance for a trip to the Super Bowl, for goodness sake. But there is no shortage of bulletin board material for the Eagles as the game approaches.

Las Vegas, as everyone no doubt already knows, has Philly as a No. 1 seed, at home, likely to lose once again.

"To have a lot of people not having a lot of confidence in us and yet to find ways to win just makes it that much more special for this group," Eagels head coach Doug Pederson said, "and they understand where we are. I'm sure Minnesota is the same way. They understand where they are, as well, and the things they've heard all season long, too."

Everywhere you look, the Vikings are being picked to go to Super Bowl 52, where they could be the first ever team to play on its home field. The doubters have fueled Philly's fire all season long.

"Any time you get to this point of the season, you do want more because you're on the doorstep of being one of those elite football teams," Pederson said. "The word 'special' with this team, it really means that. This is a really good group of men that play well together, have battled through adversity all season long with the injuries, and yet still find ways to pull out wins."

The Vikings have the best defense in the NFL and that's another sticking point for the Birds. For the defense — which perhaps feels they are being slighted when compared inferior (however slight) to the Minnesota unit — and for the offense, which will have to prove they can score enough points to earn a win Sunday.

"As a defensive player when you've got the number one defense coming in statistically, obviously, it fires us up," Fletcher Cox said. "We know going into this game that whoever's defense plays better is going to win the game. The way we're prepared, we won't change nothing that we do. We'll just go out and be ourselves."

Fletcher Cox and the Eagles defensive line will need to provide pressure. GETTY IMAGES

And if the Eagles find a way to win? Expect to see dog masks everywhere — from the stands (Amazon .com reportedly sold out of all of their dog masks this week) to the locker room. Just like last week.

"Lane [Johnson] and Chris [Long], I think, devised it last Thursday night that they were going to have these dog masks out there," Zach Ertz said. "And then Lane got the shirt right after the game, and that thing has made a ton of money to Philadelphia schools, which is an amazing thing."

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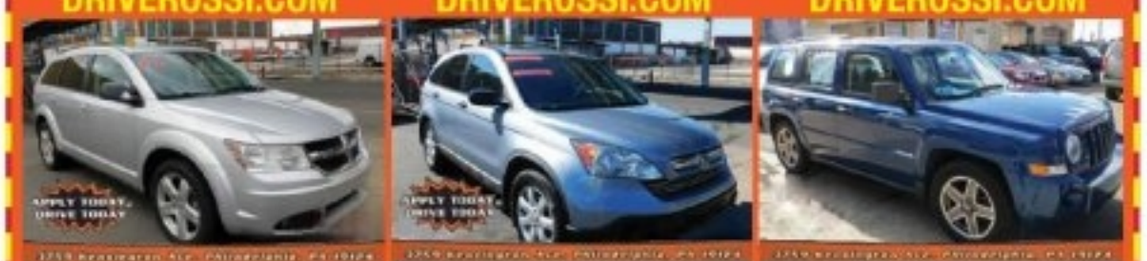

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Watch for these matchups when

These four matchups will determine who win's Sunday's NFC Championship game.

LUKE MILLER
sports@metro.us

A week ago we looked at what the Eagles and Falcons might perceive as their respective advantages going into the divisional round. Some matchups proved as important as we thought (Julio Jones and Jalen Mills battling away for the game's final pass), some barely came into play (Devonta Freeman carrying 10 times for seven yards) and some ran opposite to expectations (Atlanta's maligned coverage unit coming away with a muffed punt that set up their only touchdown.)

Here are some matchups to watch for similar impacts this week against Minnesota:

When the Vikings have the ball:

QB Case Keenum vs. Eagles defensive line

This matchup starts with the Eagles' front four (or seven, once you start rotating) taking on the Vikings much improved offensive line. When these two teams met last, the Eagles racked up six sacks. In 2017, they've been much better, allowing 10 fewer sacks and rushing for more yards per carry despite losing Adrian Peterson.

That said, this Eagles' front has a rare ability to impact games and some favorable matchups. Brandon Graham will be facing second-year tackle Rashod Hill. It'll be tough sledding for a second straight week for Hill, who endured Cameron Jordan for four quarters last weekend. Injuries have piled up along the offensive line for Minnesota this season, forcing players to shuffle positions and Hill to step in.

Another note about those 27 allowed sacks: only 22 of them have involved bringing down Keenum. The other five came in about five quarters of Sam Bradford's play this season. The 2017 Vikings improvement has had as much to do with Keenum's ability to elude pressure and scramble as it has better line play, and quarterbacks with that ability are something the Eagles have had mixed results against.

Philly's worst defeat came at the hands of Russell Wilson, who turned what would have been sacks of most other quarterbacks into three touchdown passes. But they also frustrated Cam Newton into three interceptions (while allowing him 71 rushing yards), sacked the Chief's Alex Smith four times and Dak Prescott another four in Dallas. One of those latter performances would go a long way Sunday.

Another matchup to watch: Can the Eagles' run defense shut down the Vikings, making them more one-dimentional Sunday? GETTY IMAGES

WR Adam Thielen and WR Stefon Diggs vs. CB Ronald Darby and CB Jalen Mills

We're one game removed from Marshon Lattimore and Ken Crawley being unable to effectively cover these two star receivers, so it's unlikely that Darby and Mills will be asked to do the Saints secondary one better and play with no help. But they are the Eagles outside corners and will have the primary job of stopping Keenum's two best weapons.

At 6-foot-3, Thielen will have an advantage on any ball he is asked to go up and get against the 5-foot-11 Darby or 6-foot Mills. How far that advantage will take him against one of the most physical secondaries in the NFL is up for debate.

Darby's speed might make him the better matchup for Diggs, who took advantage of Saints safety Marcus Williams missing a hit and blowing up Crawley for a game winning 61-yard touchdown as time expired. After a positive start to the season, the secondary's tackling has been inconsistent of late, and they'll need to be at their best in the most important game of the season to date. One thing is for sure, a week after facing Julio Jones, the Eagles

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A636 - Lee, Hampton • A704 - Reddish, Antone • A815 - Johnson, Lisa • A824 - Satchell, Delonne • A835 - Vaughan, Chaneane • B1102 - Wright, Harry
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E005 - Jenkins, Yvonne • E022 - Zayas, Eric • E027 - Baker, Marcus
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1199 - Cary, Edna • 1237 - Jenkins, Jorge • 1296 - Sanchez, Victor • 2036 - Saunders, Richard • 2047 - Cruz, Miguel
2084 - Cadatal, William • 2299 - Collazo, Julio • 2373 - Haywood, Freda • 3054 - Tate, Shawn • 3071 - Howell, Monique
3201 - EMERY, JASMINE • 3263 - Porter, Donna • 3349 - Overholt, Amanda • 3393 - Freeman, Jolanette
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0145 - Parker, Bonnie • 0158 - Patterson, Amber • 0228 - Stone, Michael • 0236 - Dillard, Sheila • 0260 - Willis, Kara • 0321 - Lynch, Samuel
0340 - cancino, joseph • 0347 - Hare, Tyrasha • 0372 - Henry, Akiem • 0376 - Jackson, Tahye • 0403 - Lewis, Alexis Shamese • 0442 - Bettler Clarke, Ada
0446 - Whitsell, Sara • 0449 - Davis, Terrance • 0476 - Hamilton, Mona • 0508 - Smith, Cheryl • 0526 - Williams, Sharief • 0547 - Pickett, Linda
0591 - Cooley, Kareema • 0612 - Wright, Geneva • 0638 - Mckenzie, Shaefan • 0645 - Jones, Tasha • 0655 - Guy, Deborah • 0811 - Purcell, Virginia • 0909 - Chinery, Melissa • 0922 - Davis, George • 0957 - Jeffreys Lattimore#2, LaToya • 1009 - VETERANO, VIRGINIA • 1052 - Sankey, Donovan • 1075 - Ewing, Del
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Eagles, Vikings duel for NFC title

won't be intimidated.

When the Eagles have the ball:

Head coaches Doug Pederson vs. Mike Zimmer

When the Eagles offense is on the field, both head coaches will be sending in the plays. For the Birds, limited play-calling experience was one of the loudest complaints sounded when they hired their quarterback-turned-head coach. An aggressive turn toward fourth down and two-point conversions has been something to alternately celebrate and condemn in his two-year stint at the helm. And now, his scheming may be the biggest reason the Eagles got through the divisional round.

Pederson, the coach who drafted Nick Foles, coached him in Philadelphia, Kansas City and Philadelphia again, worked a game-plan that let Foles take what the Atlanta defense gave him and put the onus on his talented running backs and wide receivers to do extra work after the catch. Then the players executed it.

"I think it's going to take the two inside guys pushing to get in [Case Keenum's] face and kind of make him uncomfortable. Let's not let him make those throws that he's been making all year. I think that once we do get our hands on him, we need to get him on the ground." Eagles defensive tackle Fletcher Cox

"Atlanta...tried to keep everything in front of them," he said. "They [Minnesota] are a little bit more diverse in their coverages. They like to switch it up. They play a lot tighter down. They are not going to give us as much underneath. We are absolutely going to have to make some larger completions."

Zimmer has called the Vikings' defensive plays since being installed as the head coach in 2014. Over his career he's presided over outstanding defenses in Dallas, Cincinnati and his present squad in Minnesota, which allowed the fewest yards and points per game in the NFL. The Vikings defensive line is trouble enough, but Zimmer's secondary is good enough that he can supplement the line with blitzes from linebackers or safeties. What they do is reminiscent of Jim Johnson's great Eagles defenses at the turn of the millennium.

Pederson says the dangerous part of Zimmer's blitzes is "you don't know where everybody is coming from. He'll present a normal, six-man box with it; he'll present a seven-man; he'll present an eight-man and you just have to try to sort it all out. It's tough to defend and puts a lot of quick pressure on your quarterback." Sunday, Pederson's job is limiting that pressure.

WR Nelson Agholor vs. CB Terence Newman and CB Mackensie Alexander

Agholor has been one of the Eagles' most dangerous weapons this season, but was mostly quiet against the Falcons in Philadelphia's first playoff game. He finished with one big play on the ground, 20 rushing and 24 receiving yards in a game plan that would have seemed tailored to his ability to grab yards after the catch. Another of his traits — the big play downfield — might be necessary to move past the Vikings.

Agholor leads Eagles receivers in catches of more than 20 yards (nine) and more than 40 yards (three) in 2017 and caught the team's longest pass of the season: 72 yards. He's thrived since becoming the team's primary slot receiver, and working there means he'll do the majority of his work against Newman or Alexander. Newman, the oldest defensive player in the NFL at 39, is a player from the Eagles' past. The Cowboys (with Zimmer as defensive coordinator) took him fifth overall in the 2003 draft and he started in Dallas through 2011 before following Zimmer to Cincinnati and, ultimately, Atlanta.

Alexander is the other end of the spectrum. The Vikings' second-round pick out of Clemson a season ago has spent the last two seasons learning his role under Newman. Both players have been banged up this postseason, with Newman missing practice leading up to the Saints game and requiring Alexander to take on a bigger role there, and with Alexander himself sitting out this week. It won't be easy, but Agholor's physical advantages over the older Newman and experience against the younger Alexander might be one of the few mismatches the Eagles have up their sleeve against the Minnesota defense.

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NFL playoffs: Best bets for conference title weekend

As nearly double-digit favorites, we think the Patriots are a sure thing in Sunday's AFC Championship Game. GETTY IMAGES

Here's who should prevail, both straight up and against the spread, in the NFL Conference Championships.

Jaguars at Patriots (-9.5)

The Patriots, making their NFL-record seventh straight Conference Championship appearance, are deserved favorites against an inexperienced Jaguars squad but may have trouble covering this sizable number.

Jacksonville's defense gave the Steelers plenty of trouble in chilly Pittsburgh last Sunday. They limited Le'Veon Bell to 67 yards rushing and forced two turnovers to bring their differential in the playoffs to plus-4 (they had the fifth-best turnover margin in the regular season at plus-10).

They also brought down Ben Roethlisberger twice, which served as a reminder of just how dangerous the Jaguars' pass rushers are (55 sacks in the regular season, second-best in the league). New England's offensive line, 15th in the NFL in sacks allowed during the regular season, should have their hands full keeping Tom Brady upright.

Jacksonville's pass rush also contributes to their league-best mark in passing yards allowed. Though the Jaguars gave up large chunks of yardage through the air to the Steelers last week, it's worth noting there were several highlight-reel catches by Pittsburgh wideouts in that contest, including a pair by Antonio Brown. The Patriots have no such receiver on their roster.

The Jaguars top-ranked rush attack, led by Leonard Fournette, should be able to move the ball effectively against the Patriots' 17th-ranked run stoppers. As long as the Jacksonville defense holds up their end of the bargain, that should be enough to at least keep this game close, regardless of how Blake Bortles plays.

The pick: Jaguars +9.5

Vikings (-3) at Eagles

Minnesota may have needed a miracle to beat the Saints at home last Sunday, but Vikings fans should be confident going into this matchup against a depleted Eagles team.

Nick Foles held his own against a decent Falcons defense last week, but his teammates betrayed him by putting the ball on the ground twice. Philadelphia can't afford to make mistakes against a stingy Minnesota defense that was first in points per game allowed and yards allowed in the regular season.

The Vikings were particularly effective against the Saints' ground game last week, holding Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara to just 80 rushing yards. That could be a problem for the Eagles, who have struggled to move the ball on the ground of late and have just one rushing touchdown since Nov. 19 (Blount's goal-line carry against Atlanta last Saturday).

Minnesota's versatile offense was on display against New Orleans, as Case Keenum and company (308 yards) bailed out the Vikings' usually-reliable ground game (95 yards but eighth in the NFL during the regular season). Keenum should have similar success against an Eagles unit that was 17th in passing yards allowed in the regular season. Expect the Vikings to win and cover on the road.

The pick: Vikings -3

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JOBS

General Help Wanted

TTC TOTAL TRANSPORTATION CORP.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

AND BUS ATTENDANTS WANTED

- Immediate Openings
- Competitive Wages
- Benefits Package
- Benefit Rate and Non-Benefit Rate
- Training Available to New Drivers
- Classes Forming Now
- $500 SIGN-ON BONUS FOR DRIVERS WITH CURRENT CREDENTIALS

Please Apply in Person

Monday through Friday

9:00am to 3:00pm

3101 Orthodox Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19137

215-383-0470

Job Coach

Full and Part Time openings for a Job Coach, who provides onsite support and training to consumers in community integrated employment. The responsibilities for this position will include following through with the regularly scheduled activities, routines and rhythms for the job site. 11.50hr. + mileage.
Days and Hours will vary depending upon the work schedule of the individual. High school diploma/ GED required. Prefer experience working with people with developmental disabilities. Valid driver's license, auto insurance, auto registration & access to reliable transportation is required.

Send resumes to **GALEWILLIAMS@barberinstitute.org**

Barber Institute - Maintenance Personnel

Full Time and Part Time Maintenance personnel needed to assist in daily maintenance, upkeep and preventive work for Residential facilities throughout the Greater Philadelphia and surrounding areas. Requires experience with all facets of interior/exterior home repair. Will work at least 40 hours per week including the possibility of on-call emergency workloads. Qualifications include high school diploma or equivalent, valid driver's license, and eligibility for Acts 33/34 Clearances. Excellent employee benefit package. $13.00/hr. If you need an accommodation to apply, please contact **Human Resources at (215) 871-0731. EOE**

Send a resume to: QDevore@barberinstitute.org

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DEADLINE: 2 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION AT 4 PM.

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A worker-owned company

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or online at
www.homecareassociatespa.com

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- Location is accessible to public transportation

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(MUST BE UNOPENED AND NON-EXPIRED TEST STRIPS)

WE PICK UP!
CALL (484) 447-1223
TO SCHEDULE A PICK UP TODAY!

CA$H PAID
FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS!
ABSOLUTE TOP VALUE
MOST BRANDS ACCEPTED

PAY UP TO $60 PER BOX
WE PICK UP

Call James 610-453-2525

$$$ CASH PAID $$$
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We Pickup
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We will pay up to $60 per box
We will pick up
— GUARANTEED —
CALL #215.820.4312

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Vehicles Wanted

WE BUY CARS & TRUCKS
(any condition)
$100--$5000
CASH PAID
FREE TOWING
SAME DAY PICKUP
267-229-1970

$$$ UP TO $1100.00 $$$
For Cars w/Bad Engines
w/ or w/out title
500.00 CASH $$$
For Any Junk Cars or Trucks
215-669-1000

WE BUY JUNK CARS!
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Free pickup!
Call: 609-851-2980
or 215-730-0900

LEGAL NOTICES

THE FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE NOTICE OF GUARDIANSHIP ACTION

TO: Shiretta V. Justice, DOB: 9/12/1978
FROM: Confidential Clerk of Family Court
Denise V. Freeman & Lonnie Freeman, Petitioners, has brought a civil action (Petition number 17-26127) against you to obtain guardianship of your child:

Minor Male, DOB: 8/16/13
If you do not file an answer with the Court and send a copy to the Petitioner's Attorney (or to the Petitioner if unrepresented) at the following address: 52 Grand National Lane Newark, DE 19702 within 20 days after publication of this notice, exclusive of the date of publication, as required by statute, this action will be heard without further notice at Family Court.

IF YOU WISH TO BE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY IN THIS MATTER BUT CANNOT AFFORD ONE, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO HAVE THE COURT APPOINT AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU FOR FREE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONFIDENTIAL CLERK AT FAMILY COURT, (302) 255-0300
1/19/18

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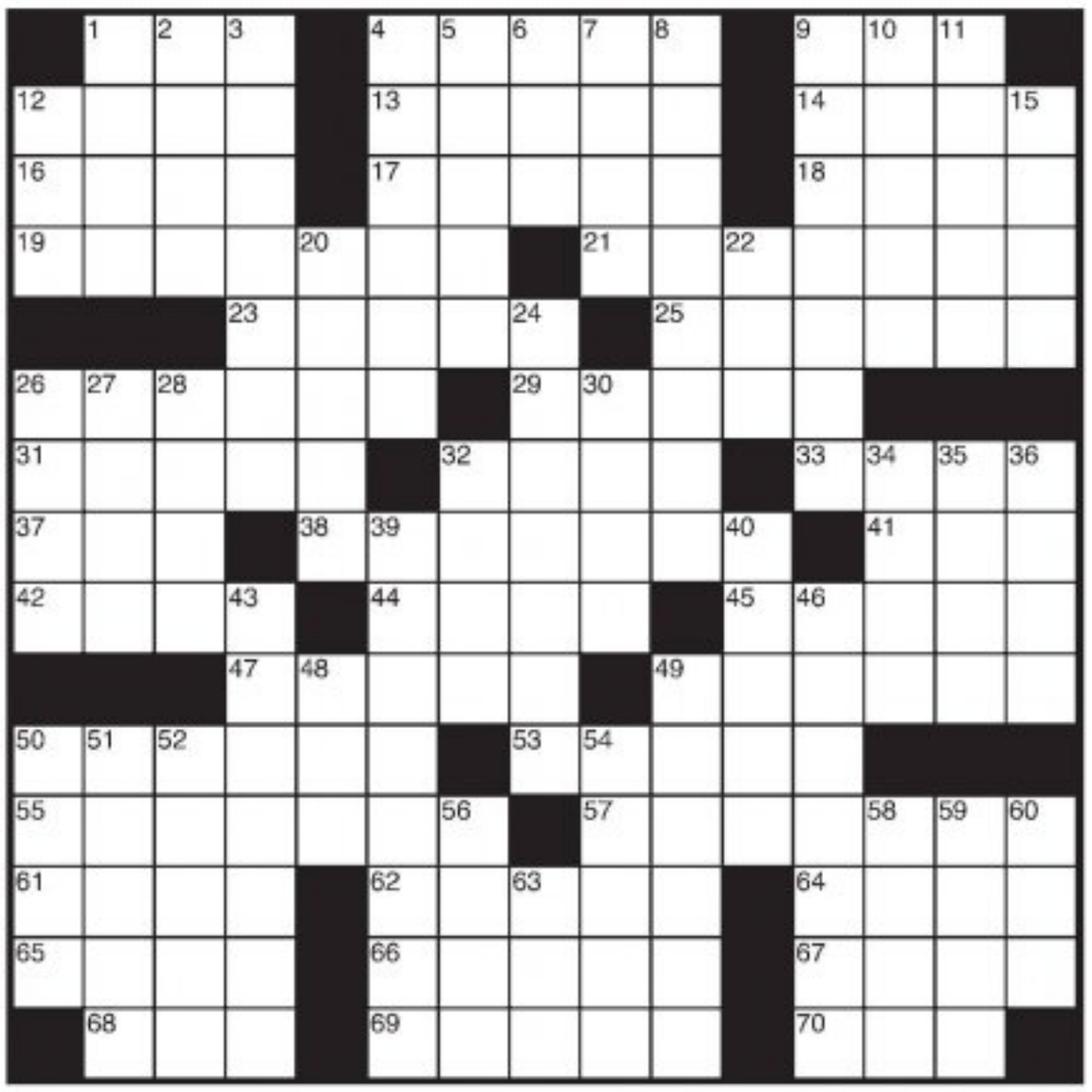
metro.us/games

metro.us/crossword

Across
1 Pouch
4 Lieutenant under Kirk
9 To the -- (totally)
12 Wheeling's river
13 Refinery output
14 Stadium shape
16 African antelope
17 Carpenter's tool
18 Track event
19 Cut-out pattern
21 Quarry material
23 Chocolate substitute
25 He'll suit you
26 For some time
29 Like the yak
31 This too -- pass
32 "PTI" broadcaster
33 Be radiant
37 Good buddy
38 Sneeze inducer
41 That senora
42 Portico
44 Wan
45 On -- -- (hot)
47 The One-L Lama
49 Friday's companion
50 Saunter
53 Chances to play
55 Settles beforehand
57 Gave a hard time
61 Young horse
62 Spoil (2 wds.)
64 Bronte's orphan
65 Cannot tell -- --
66 Run -- of (cross)
67 Food holder
68 Inc. cousin
69 Attic end
70 Clique

Down
1 Barred
2 Senate staffer
3 City or student --
4 Game official
5 Parrot's word
6 Tony-winner -- Hagen
7 Called the butler
8 Warning
9 Dawn
10 Take advantage of
11 Hobby knife (hyph.)
12 Approves
15 Lascivious look
20 Showy lily
22 Battery size
24 Single (2 wds.)
26 Sacred snakes of Egypt
27 Riddle starter
28 Lunar phenomenon
30 Nimble
32 Lohengrin's bride
34 Tolstoy et al.
35 Fjord city
36 Hull plank
39 Loaf around
40 Fish stories
43 Voted to accept
46 Winter apples
48 Huntsville loc.
49 Bassinet
50 Humane org.
51 Sing heartily
52 Fixed the pilot
54 Orange-and-white rental (hyph.)
56 Comfy seat
58 Orpheus played it
59 Latin I verb
60 Susan of "L.A. Law"
63 Dock



metro.us/sudoku

easy

5			9			2	3	6
			6	5		1		
7			1					9
	7	2		3		8		
		3		4		6	2	
2					9			7
		7		8	5			
8	4	9			2			1

hard

7		6			8			
3	9	4			7			
			2			6		3
9			1					5
	7		9		5		2	
4					2			8
5		9			1			
			8			1	4	7
			4			5		9

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries You can make a difference if you plan your actions carefully. An unexpected interruption will add to your stress if you have taken on too much.

Taurus Be tasteful in the way you offer help to others. If you are looking for praise or rewards, your motives are probably questionable. Live within your means.

Gemini Concentrate on personal improvement or educational pursuits to boost your chance to advance. Celebrate with someone who shares your enthusiasm.

Cancer Do something different. Visit a destination you've never been to before and associate with people who offer inspiration and motivation.

Leo Invest your time and effort into bringing about worthwhile lifestyle changes. Don't feel obliged to pay for someone else. Share and be fair, but don't let anyone use you.

Virgo Explore new places and interests to connect with someone who jogs your memory or gives you plenty to consider. A unique partnership will encourage new beginnings.

Libra Someone from your past will offer unique advice that encourages you to do the right thing. Don't let anger prevail when intelligence is what's required.

Scorpio Troubles at home will cause an emotional disturbance. Refuse to overreact to a situation that just requires a little nurturing and tender, loving care.

Sagittarius A change of plans or location will do you good. Taking a day trip or doing something you've never done before will give you a new lease on life. Romance is highlighted.

Capricorn Emotions will play a role in the matters concerning your ability to earn a living and uphold your reputation. Think twice before you say or do something you'll regret.

Aquarius Charm coupled with intuitive intelligence will help you ward off anyone trying to take advantage of you. Avoid people employing high-pressure tactics or ultimatums.

Pisces Emotional spending or making promises you probably won't want to keep should be eschewed. You are best off using your insight to overcome obstacles. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

Z	I	N	C	■	S	M	U	G	■	A	M	F	M	■
O	R	A	L	■	L	I	M	A	■	T	A	R	E	S
N	O	M	E	■	E	S	P	N	■	T	R	I	T	E
E	N	E	M	I	E	S	■	G	R	E	A	T	E	R
■	■	■	E	N	V	Y	■	■	E	N	C	O	D	E
B	R	O	N	T	E	■	F	O	N	D	A	■	■	■
L	O	O	S	E	■	T	E	X	T	■	■	T	A	G
A	S	H	■	L	A	W	L	E	S	S	■	E	D	O
H	A	S	■	■	D	I	O	N	■	P	L	A	Z	A
■	■	■	D	E	I	G	N	■	R	O	I	L	E	D
A	S	P	I	R	E	■	■	T	E	R	N	■	■	■
C	A	L	L	O	U	S	■	A	C	E	T	O	N	E
I	L	I	A	D	■	C	U	T	E	■	E	M	U	S
D	A	N	T	E	■	A	M	E	N	■	L	A	I	T
■	D	Y	E	D	■	B	A	R	T	■	S	R	T	A

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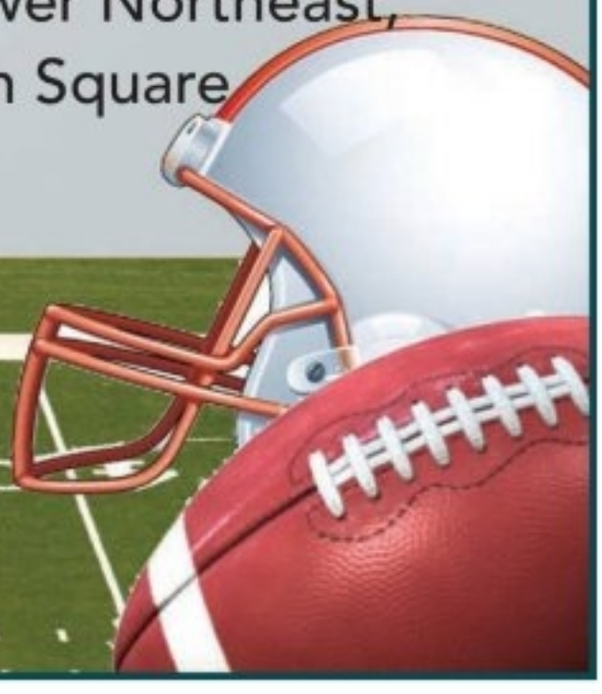

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